



NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS

The Bureau of Land Management's

Wilderness Act of 1964

In 1964, Congress passed the Wilderness Act, which established the National Wilderness Preservation System and designated the first wilderness areas. The purpose of the Wilderness Act is to provide long-term preservation and protection to areas on federal lands that are largely undeveloped, natural, and unconstrained by human activity and that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or recreation.

The uniquely American idea of wilderness ensures long-term protection of natural landscapes. Wilderness protects the habitat of numerous wildlife species and serves as a biodiversity bank for many species of plants and animals. Wilderness is also a source of clean water. It has long been used as a laboratory for science research and education outreach, providing sites for field trips, study areas for student research, and serving as a source of instructional examples. Recreation is another obvious appeal of wilderness, and wilderness areas are seeing steadily increasing use from people who wish to experience freedom from the nation's fast-paced, industrialized society.

The BLM's Wilderness Role

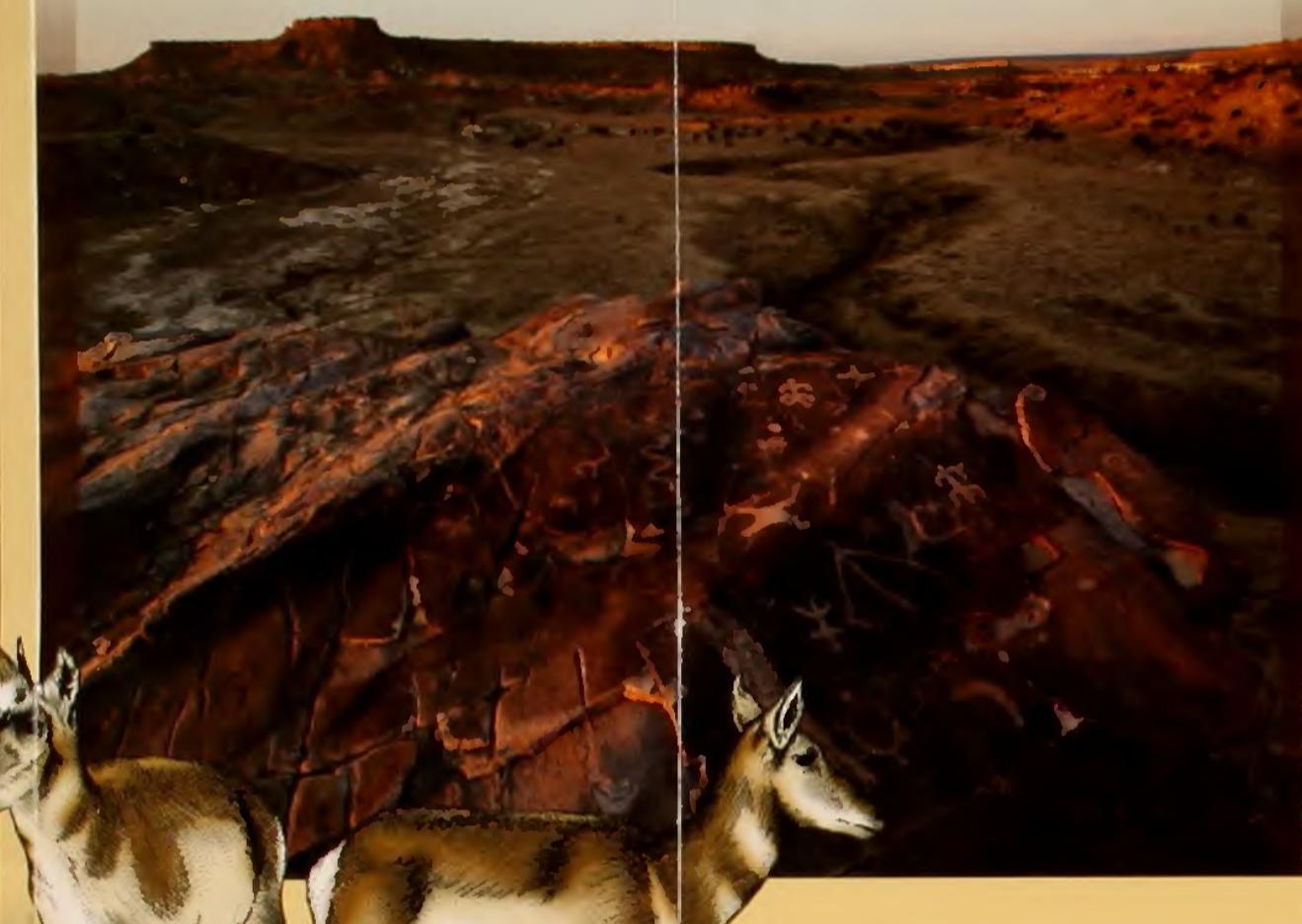
Many wilderness lands are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any other federal agency. BLM public lands, known as the National System of Public Lands, are primarily located in 12 western states, including Alaska.

The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

A central piece of the BLM's National System of Public Lands is the National Landscape Conservation System, otherwise known as "National Conservation Lands." These lands include approximately 8.7 million acres of wilderness areas and 12.8 million acres of wilderness study areas (WSAs), containing some of the wildest and most remote places in America.

The BLM's National Conservation Lands are a system of lands that comprise approximately 28 million acres of spectacular, primarily western landscapes recognized for their ecological, cultural, historic, recreational, and scientific values. In addition to wilderness lands, National Conservation Lands include national monuments, national conservation areas, wild and scenic rivers, and national trails.

Wilderness lands consist of rugged mountain ranges, broad valleys, wild rivers and streams, and desert plains and include vast natural landscapes, which once covered all of North America. Along with the BLM, wilderness lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



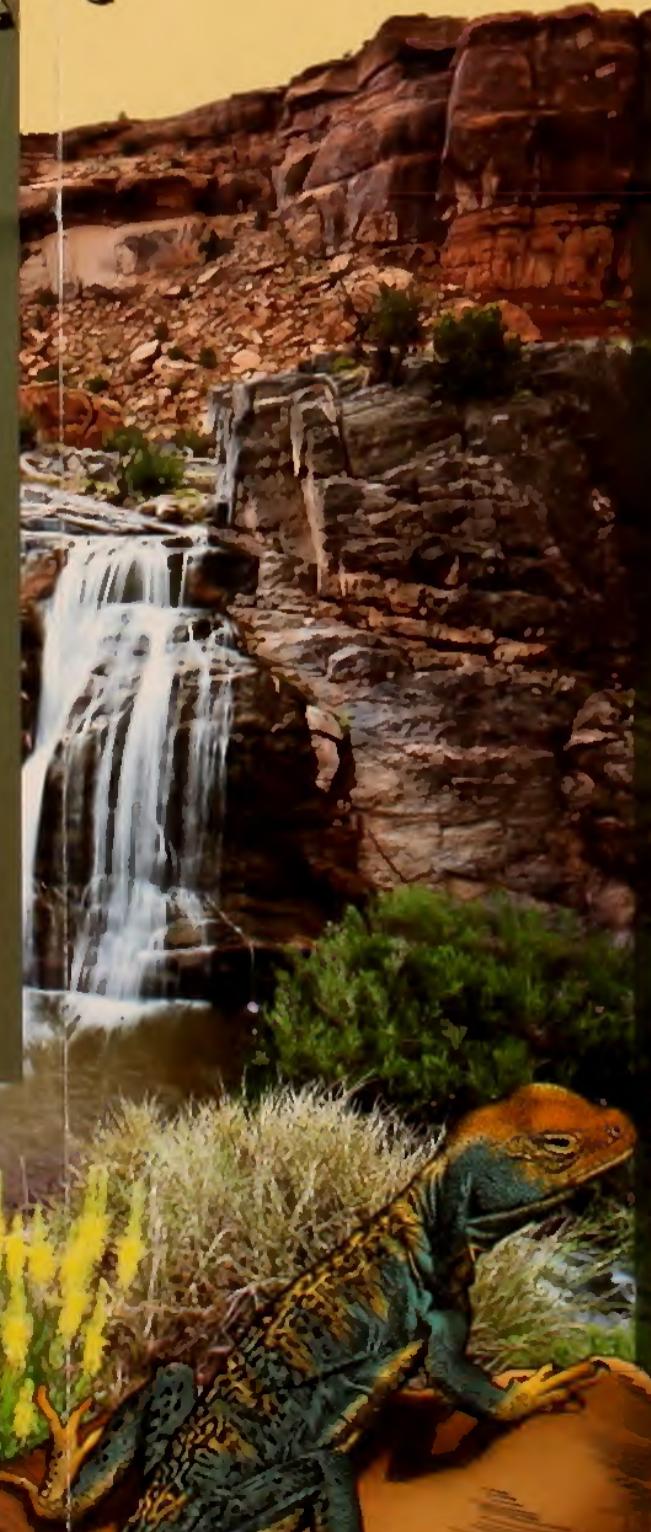
Wilderness Areas

The BLM is responsible for 221 wilderness areas in 10 western states. Wilderness areas are special places where the earth and its community of life are essentially undisturbed. They retain a primeval character, without permanent improvements, and have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Wilderness Areas by the Numbers

STATE	NUMBER OF UNITS	ACREAGE
Arizona	47	1,396,826
California	87	3,843,998
Colorado	5	205,814
Idaho	7	517,362
Montana	1	6,347
Nevada	45	2,055,681
New Mexico	5	170,163
Oregon	8	246,953
Utah	18	260,356
Washington	1	7,140
Total	221	8,710,640

* Three wilderness areas have acreage in two different states. These areas are only counted once in the total number of units.



Wilderness Study Areas

The BLM manages more than 520 WSAs located in the western states and Alaska. To be designated a WSA, an area must have the following characteristics:

Size – roadless areas of at least 5,000 acres of public lands or of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation.

Naturalness – appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.

Opportunities – provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, natural sounds, dark night skies, or primitive and unconfined recreation, such as hiking, camping, canoeing, and horseback riding.

Special qualities – the areas often have ecological, geological, educational, historical, scientific, and/or scenic values.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 directed the BLM to inventory and study its roadless areas for wilderness characteristics. The study received extensive public input and participation. By November 1980, the BLM had completed field inventories and designated about 25 million acres of

WSAs. Since 1980, Congress has reviewed many of these areas and has designated some as wilderness areas and released others for nonwilderness uses. Until Congress makes a final determination on a WSA, the BLM manages these areas to preserve their suitability for designation as wilderness.

Wilderness Study Areas by the Numbers

STATE	NUMBER OF UNITS	ACREAGE
Alaska	1	260,000
Arizona	2	63,930
California	67	821,870
Colorado	54	548,209
Idaho	44	655,512
Montana	39	449,963
Nevada	62	2,542,505
New Mexico	57	960,335
Oregon	87	2,645,791
Utah	86	3,232,402
Washington	1	5,554
Wyoming	42	574,401
Total	528**	12,760,472

** Fourteen WSAs have acreage in two different states. These areas are only counted once in the total number of units.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

WSAs were formally identified in 1980, and inventory and study findings were submitted to Congress as part of a one-time effort under FLPMA. However, in accordance with FLPMA, the BLM is required to maintain an inventory of all public land values, including wilderness characteristics, on an ongoing basis. Due to land exchanges and acquisitions, resource restoration projects, and other factors, BLM land conditions can change, resulting in additional BLM lands with wilderness characteristics.

Once the inventory is updated, the BLM is required to make decisions in its resource management plans as to which lands should be managed to protect wilderness characteristics and which lands should be managed for other uses. If a decision is made to "protect," the BLM uses a variety of management prescriptions to ensure that wilderness characteristics are maintained over the life of the plan (e.g., prohibit new road and facility construction, exclude new rights-of-way, provide compatible recreation uses, etc.).



Wilderness Provides Vital Ecological Values

Although wilderness areas provide visitors the rare opportunity to experience solitude and recreation, wilderness areas also provide significant and vital ecological values. Wilderness areas, as large tracts of unmodified land, play a major role in ecosystem response to climate change. An unmodified ecosystem is less stressed and therefore more resilient. A more resilient ecosystem can absorb greater impacts, such as those resulting from climate change, and may continue to function effectively for a longer period of time.

Resiliency, in turn, helps protect biodiversity, support critical ecological components and processes, stabilize hydrological response, allow more species to exist at the edge of their natural range, improve native species' resistance to invasive species, and create more areas that act as refugia for displaced species. Further, wilderness areas help improve landscapes' strong ecological connectivity. BLM wilderness lands provide a high degree of protection and often serve as a bridge and migration corridor between adjacent protected areas, regardless of their administrative jurisdiction.

Benefits of Wild

Wilderness is everyone's to share and enjoy:

- Wilderness provides time to reflect and find solitude and solace.



- Wilderness provides opportunities for recreation, including hiking, camping, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, photography, off-trail exploration, and many others.



- Some wilderness includes sacred ancestral lands of American Indian tribes.
- Wilderness showcases to the world some of America's most special places and landscapes—forested mountains, alpine meadows, rock peaks above timberline, tundra, lava beds, deserts, wild rivers, swamps, coastal lands, and islands.

- Wilderness provides economic benefits to local communities and the nation.

- Protecting the environment and providing rare opportunities for wilderness experiences interest a wide national



BLM Wilderness

The BLM's wilderness management program focuses on the protection and conservation of wilderness by:

- Monitoring and preserving wilderness character.
- Managing land use and encouraging appropriate wilderness uses.
- Monitoring and managing for noxious weed infestations, trespass activities, and recreation.
- Restoring impacted areas such as trampled vegetation and eroded soil.

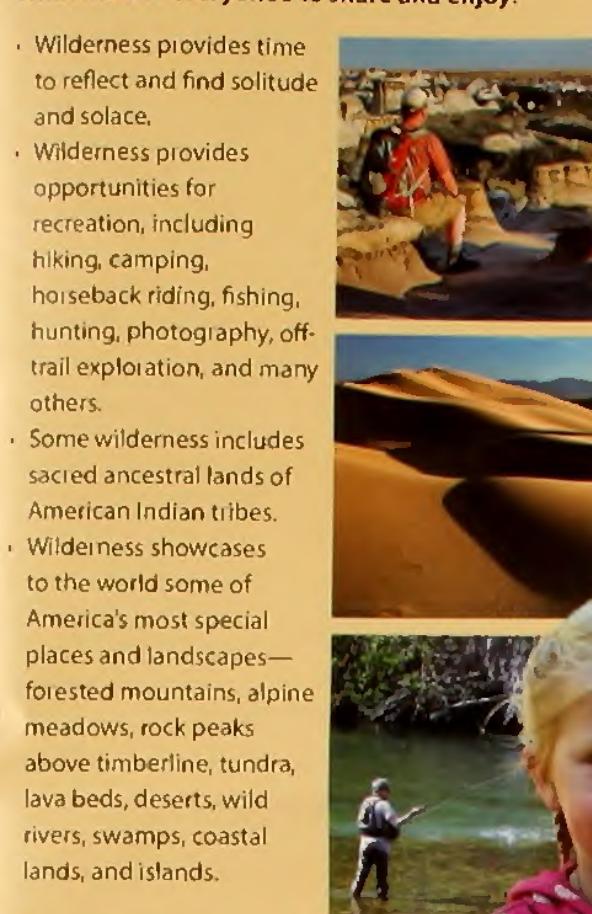
The BLM is unique in that the vast majority of its wilderness areas and WSAs are located in a wide variety of desert environments, adding an essential network of desert ecosystem components to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Millions of people visit these areas annually, either on their own or through the hundreds of permitted commercial outfitters that assist the public in enjoying these unique lands. Visitors provide significant social and economic benefit to local communities with nearby



ment's Role in Managing America's Wilderness

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- and international audience. Local communities may benefit economically from nearby wilderness through increased visitation and local expenditures, as well as through the protection and enhancement of amenities related to quality of life.
- Many local outfitters and guides specialize in leading comfortable and exciting wilderness adventures for individual travelers or larger groups, including families.

Wilderness provides clean water and air, critical habitat for animals, and healthy landscapes, allowing rare and endangered species to thrive.

- Wilderness areas on BLM public lands provide essential habitat for numerous wildlife and plant species. Some of these include golden eagles, prairie falcons, condors, and bobcats, as well as cacti, bristlecone pine trees, and Joshua trees.

BLM Wilderness Management Program Emphasis Areas

PRESERVING WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Preserving wilderness character is at the heart of the BLM's responsibility to ensure its wilderness areas are protected for future generations. In 2008, the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Geological Service developed "Keeping It Wild: An Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System." The strategy outlines a unified approach to identifying trends in wilderness character quality and provides a standardized method to assess broad-scale performance in preserving wilderness character to be used by all wilderness-managing agencies.

In 2009, the BLM implemented this strategy with a goal of completing baseline monitoring for 20 percent of BLM wilderness areas each year. The protocol developed to monitor and describe trends in the quality of wilderness character will enable the BLM to establish a meaningful measure with verified baseline data for use in the future. Once this baseline monitoring is complete, and for the first time since the Wilderness Act was passed, the BLM will be able to track trends in wilderness character for all of its wilderness areas.

ENHANCING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

The BLM's wilderness areas play an increasingly critical role in expanding our scientific knowledge about a wide array of challenging management issues facing the BLM and other wildland managers. The BLM emphasizes the role of science partnerships in managing wilderness and increasingly collaborates with partners to help manage BLM wilderness areas as a part of larger landscapes. Scientific research continues to increase as new opportunities are identified, including research directed at the effects of landscape stressors on species habitat and migration corridors. New, improved, higher resolution satellite imagery and aerial photography further aid in the monitoring of wilderness areas and WSAs. This imagery is less expensive than complete reliance on ground patrols, adds an additional level of diagnostics to make further analyses, and can help maximize the effectiveness of appropriated funds used to manage these areas.

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Developing partnerships in wilderness stewardship is an important aspect of the BLM's management of wilderness lands. BLM wilderness resources benefit greatly from volunteers who provide thousands of hours of monitoring, as well as material and transportation for specific projects. Nearly 100 formal and informal partnerships have been developed to facilitate wilderness stewardship activities on BLM land. Typical examples of work performed by partners in wilderness areas and WSAs include trail construction and maintenance, invasive species eradication and monitoring, interim management monitoring of WSAs, and reclamation and restoration activities to create more natural environments. The BLM has developed a memorandum of understanding with the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, a national organization that is coordinating the establishment of partners and friends groups to assist in wilderness stewardship in the National Wilderness Preservation System.



CONNECTING LANDSCAPES BY WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

Working collaboratively with several BLM programs and other agencies better allows the BLM to manage the wilderness areas under its jurisdiction as a part of larger landscapes, which clearly benefits BLM wilderness resources. For example, programs that manage wildlife (e.g., desert bighorn sheep, sage-grouse, etc.), fire, weeds, and rangeland resources routinely fund projects that also benefit wilderness resources. By establishing connections across boundaries with other jurisdictions, management of wilderness areas complements conservation areas within the respective jurisdictions of the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, tribes, state and local governments, private conservation lands, and other BLM land managed for resource protection.

BLM Wilderness Management Program Priorities for the Future

The BLM wilderness management program's six overarching priorities to guide its work from 2014 and beyond include:

1. Ensure the protection of wilderness character.

The Wilderness Act states that administering agencies are "responsible for preserving the wilderness character." The BLM will ensure that managers and staff adhere to this core direction of the act in development and implementation of all management decisions within designated wilderness. The BLM will provide tools and training to employees while ensuring accountability in meeting this core legal mandate and associated agency policies.

2. Improve connection with partners.

Internal and external cooperative work with partners will continue to build capacity and increase the understanding of the relevancy of wilderness resources. The BLM will continue to foster wilderness stewardship by better connecting the broader wilderness network, both domestic and international.

3. Raise awareness of the BLM's wilderness lands.

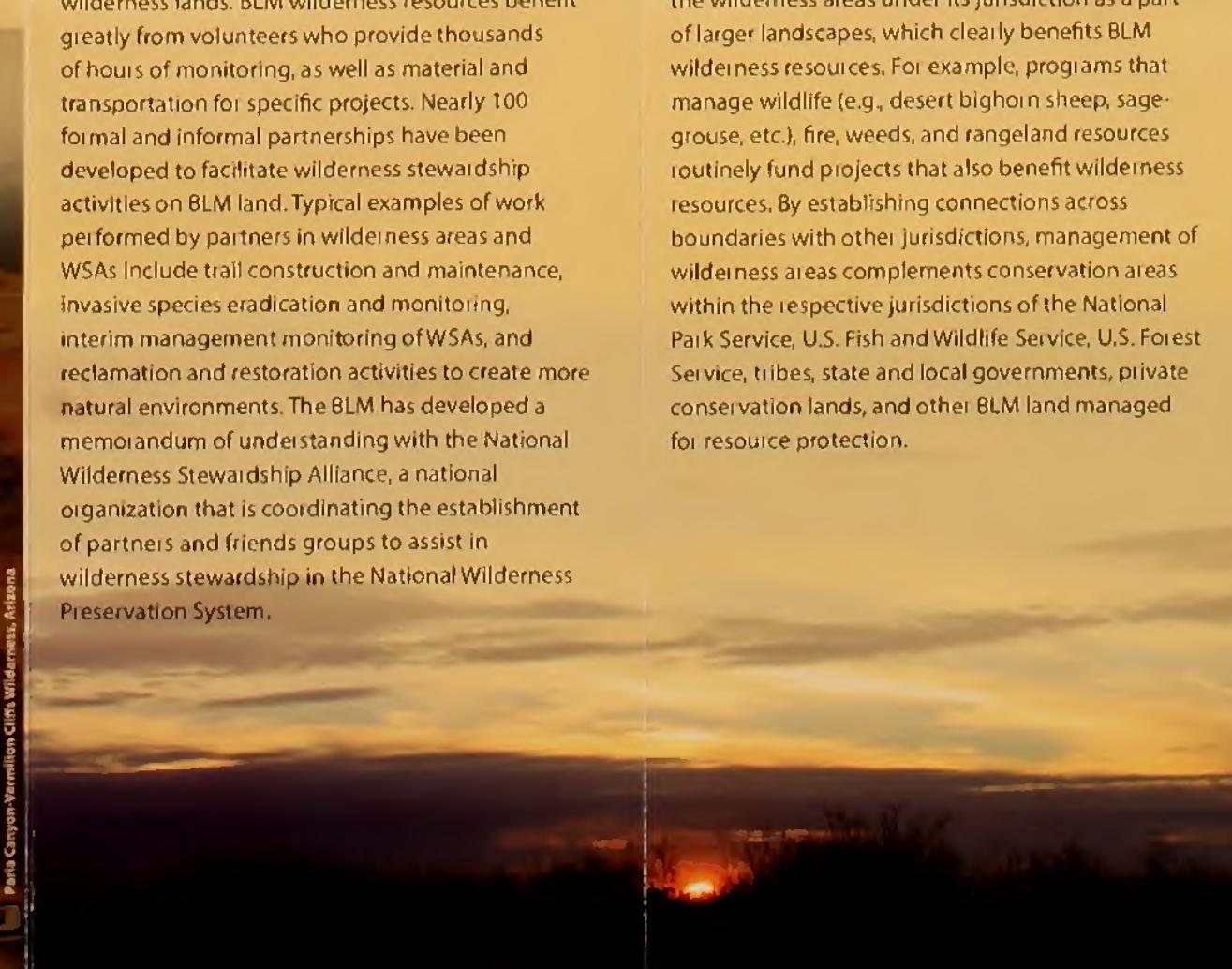
Raise awareness of BLM wilderness lands so more people understand and appreciate wilderness, its values, and its benefits. Continue in-reach and outreach efforts to convey the importance of wilderness areas to our publics' quality of life, and further promote consistent cooperative messaging.



Help Protect Wilderness

You can help protect wilderness by learning more (www.wilderness.net) and being a responsible visitor (www.LNT.org).

You can help the BLM in its wilderness stewardship efforts by joining a local wilderness friends group (www.wildernessalliance.org), joining the Society for Wilderness Stewardship (www.wildernessstewardship.org), or volunteering at a nearby BLM field office.



Wilderness Resources on BLM Lands



- Wilderness Areas
- Wilderness Study Areas
- BLM Public Lands
- Urban Areas



Lands



Wilderness Study Areas

ALASKA	1 Central Arctic Management Area	141 Great Rifts	290 Horre Mountain	450 Moquith Mountain	100 Oiscopia Mountains	188 Tunnel Spring
	142 Hawley Mountain	291 Hoverrock	292 Ignacio Chavez	451 Mount Ellen-Blue Hills	101 Olay Mountain	189 Wee Thump Joshua Tree
ARIZONA	143 Bear Hill Acce	293 Jonsada del Muerto	452 Mount Hillier	293 Owens Peak	102 Palump Valley	190 Wepah Spring
	144 Jenny Lake	294 La Lena (Ildde over n)	453 Mount Pennell	294 Pahsum Valley	103 White Rock Range	191 White Rock Range
	145 Jenny Peak	295 Las Uves Mountain	454 Mud Spring Canyon	295 Paless McCoy	104 Palen/McCoy	192 Worthington Mountains
CALIFORNIA	146 King Hill Mtn	296 Little Black Peak	455 Muddy Creek	105 Pal Verde Mountains		
	147 King Hill Creek	297 Lomarone Ridge	456 Mule Canyon	106 Picacho Peak		
	148 Little City of Rocks	298 Manzano	457 North Big Canyon	107 Pinto Mountains		
	149 Little Deer	299 Matthes	458 North Escalante Canyons/	108 Pipes Mountain		
	150 Little Woods	300 McKittrick Canyon	300 The Gulch	109 Quemado Mountains		
	151 Lower Salmon Falls Creek	301 Marfa Blanca	459 North Fork Virgin River	110 Eagletail Mountains		
	152 Marshall Mountain	302 Mount Riley	460 North Stanislaus Mountain	111 East Cactus Plain		
	153 Marshall Mountain	303 Mudgett	461 North Peak	112 Fishhook		
	154 Petticoat Peak	304 Ojito	462 Orderville Canyon	113 Gila River		
	155 Raven's Eye	305 Organ Mountain	463 Paia-Hackberry	114 Grand Wash Cliffs		
	156 Sand Butte	306 Organ Needler	464 Paia-Hackberry 202	115 Harcuvaro Mountains		
	157 Sand Mountain	307 Peñoncillo Mountains	465 Pasunweep Canyon	116 Harguinalo Mountains		
	158 Selk'kak Crari	308 Peña Blanca (Ildde over n)	466 Philpot-Death Hollow	117 Hassayampa River Canyon		
	159 Shear Butte	309 Petaca Pinha	467 Road Canyon	118 Hells Canyon		
	160 Shoreline	310 Prellia	468 Rockwell	119 Hummingbird Springs		
	161 Snake River Islands	311 Rio Chama	469 San Rafael Reef	20 Kanab Creek		
	162 Snowhole Rapids	312 Robledo Mountain	470 Scorpion	21 Mount Logan		
	163 White Knob Mountain	313 San Antonio	471 Scott's Basin	22 Mount Nutt		
	164 Worm Creek	314 Sierra de las Canar (Ildde over n)	472 Sids Cabin 202	23 Mount Tipton		
MONTANA	165 Antelope Creek	315 Sierra Ladron	473 South Mountain	24 Mount Turnbull		
	166 Axioolt Lakes	316 Stallion	474 South Naches	25 Mount Wilson		
	167 Beaver Meadows	318 Weri Porillio Mountain	475 Spring Creek Canyon	26 Steens Mountain		
	168 Bell/Limkilin Canyon		476 Spruce Canyon	27 Needles Eye		
	169 Big Horn Tack On*		477 Squaw/Papoose Canyon*	28 New Water Mountains		
	170 Billy Creek		478 Sheep Creek	29 North Maricopa Mountains		
	171 Bitter Creek		480 The Blues	30 North Santa Teresa		
	172 Black Sage		481 The Cockscomb	31 Peute		
	173 Blacktail Mountains		482 Turtle Canyon	32 Padia Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs**		
	174 Bridge Coule		483 Wah Wah Mountains	33 Peloncillo Mountains		
	175 Buffalo Creek		484 Wahweap	34 Rawhide Mountains		
	176 Busin Lodge		485 Westwater Canyon	35 Redfield Canyon		
	177 Burn Timbes Canyon		486 White Rock Range	36 Sierra Estrella		
	178 Centennial Mountain		487 Winsor Ridge	37 Signal Mountain		
	179 Cow Creek			38 South Maricopa Mountains		
	180 Cow Creek South			39 Swonse		
	181 Earl Rock Blacktail Dees Creek			40 Table Top		
	182 Elkhorn			41 Tres Alamos		
	183 Ervin Ridge			42 Tioga Mountain		
	184 Farlin Creek			43 Tule Lake		
	185 Henneberry Ridge			44 Tule Lake/Cold Creek		
	186 Hidden Pasture Creek			45 Wabosum Peak		
	187 Hoodoo Mountain			46 Warm Springs		
	188 Humbug Spikes			47 White Canyon		
	189 Musselshell Breaks			48 Woolsey Peak		
	190 North Fork Sun River					
	191 Pryor Mountain*					
	192 Quigley Well					
	193 Ruby Mountains					
	194 Seven Blacktail					
	195 Sleeping Giant/Sleepy Creek					
	196 Squeez Butte					
	197 Stafford					
	198 Terry Badlands					
	199 Twin Coulee					
	200 Wales Creek					
	201 Woodhawk					
	202 Yellowstone River Island					
	203 Zook Creek					
COLORADO	204 Alder Creek					
	205 Antelope Range					
	206 Auguste Mountains					
	207 Bad Lands					
	208 Blue Eagle					
	209 Blue Laker					
	210 Bluebell					
	211 Buffalo Hill*					
	212 Busbank Canyon					
	213 Cedar Ridge					
	214 China Mountain					
	215 Clan Alpine Mountains					
	216 Desotoy Mountain					
	217 Dry Valley Rim*					
	218 Fandango					
	219 Fox Range					
	220 Gabbley Range					
	221 Goshute Canyon					
	222 Goshute Peak					
	223 Grapine Mountain					
	224 Hare Rock					
	225 Castle Peak					
	226 Chew Winter Camp					
	227 Cross Canyon*					
	228 Damasee Canyon					
	229 Diamond Breaks*					
	230 Dolores River Canyon					
	231 Dominguez Canyon					
	232 Eagle Mountain					
	233 Mountain Meadow					
	234 High Mesa Grassland					
	235 Little Book Cliffs					
	236 Lower Grape Creek					
	237 McIntyre Hills					
	238 McKenna Peak					
	239 Menefee Mountain					
	240 Needle Rock					
	241 North Sand Hills					
	242 Oil Spring Mountain					
	243 Papa Keal					
	244 Peterson Draw					
	245 Plate River Contigouous					
	246 Red Lizard and Snake					
	247 Redcloud Peak					
	248 Rendevous					
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